

THE ACTS OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The exalted Lord plants and propagates his Church¹

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

~Acts 1:1,2

Outline of Acts

September 12	September 19	September 26	October 3	October 17	October 24	October 31	November 7	November 14	November 21										
Birth of the Church	Growth of the Church	Scattering of the Church	Extension of the Church	First Missionary Journey	Second Missionary Journey	Third Missionary Journey	Arrest in Jerusalem	Trials in Caesarea	Arrival in Rome										
1	2	3	7	8	9	10	12	13	15:35	15:36	18:22	18:23	21:26	21:27	23	24	26	27	28
Triumph			Transition			Travels					Trials								
"Jerusalem"			"Judea & Samaria"			"To the ends of the earth"													
Jews			Jews and Samaritans			Gentiles													
Peter			Philip, Peter, Paul			Paul													
2 Years (30-32 AD)			14 Years (32-47 AD)			14 Years (47-61 AD)													

¹ Franzmann, Werner; "Some great themes from Acts 1-12"; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary online essays

The exalted Lord rules by the power of his grace, through the Word of God's grace.²

Acts 1

1. In Acts 1:1, Luke says that in his previous book he wrote about the things Jesus "began" to do and teach. The inference is that in Luke's second volume he will share what Jesus "continued" to do and teach. How would things be different in Acts than in Luke's Gospel?
2. If these disciples were going to be true emissaries of their Redeemer-King, they needed to be certain about the royal message of grace. What two things did Jesus do to solidify the message for the "apostles" (Acts 1:3)?
3. In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells the disciples, "You will be my witnesses." Classify what kind of witnesses they will be.
4. Look at Acts 1:9-11. What does Jesus' rule in glory always aim at?
5. Worship on Ascension (which always falls on a _____ [day of the week], forty days after Easter) are becoming less common in the church. Turn to a neighbor and share what comforts you most about Jesus' ascension.
6. In Acts 1:12-26, as the disciples waited in Jerusalem for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, they needed to fill the vacancy made by Judas' departure. What did the disciples ask when they prayed to the Lord about the candidates who were proposed?
7. What does their prayer teach us about where called workers in the church come from? (See Ephesians 4:11-13 and Hebrews 5:4.)

² Ibid.

Passover significance

Passover begins at sundown as each family partakes in a meal of the sacrificial lamb	Thurs	Jesus institutes Lord's Supper while celebrating Passover on Thursday evening "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7b).
Passover ends at sundown, Feast of Unleavened Bread begins (showing Passover's results)	Fri	Jesus is sacrificed and breathes his last shortly before 3:00 pm. He is laid in the tomb before 6:00 pm "Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are" (1 Cor 5:7a).
Sabbath Day	Sat	Jesus' body lies (rests) in the tomb
Firstfruits – Israelites present best of crops to God in thanksgiving and trust for future blessings	Sun	Jesus rises from the dead "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Pentecost significance

<u>OLD TESTAMENT</u> 7 weeks after Firstfruits Harvest festival Commemorated birthday of OT church Included all 4 offerings	<u>NEW TESTAMENT</u> 7 weeks after Firstfruits Spiritual harvest of 3,000 Birthday of NT church Believers have complete relationship with God
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1. What differences do you note between the practice of speaking in tongues (glossolalia) in some churches today and the tongues (xenoglossia) in which the disciples spoke?

2. When can the practice of speaking in tongues today actually be harmful to true faith and certain confidence?

3. In Acts 2:1-11, what evidence did Peter offer the scoffers and skeptics that these tongues were not gibberish?

4. In Acts 2:14-41, Peter cites three Old Testament prophecies as being fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth and in the events of Pentecost. How was each prophecy fulfilled?
 - a. Joel 2:28-32

b. Psalm 16:8-11

c. Psalm 110:1

5. Through Peter's sermon, how did God the Holy Spirit both convict the people and offer them comfort?
6. Peter called upon the people to repent. What is repentance?
7. Describe the relationship between repentance and baptism.
8. Look at Acts 2:42-47. Compare the practice of Christianity today with that of the earliest first-century believers.
 - a. What similarities in attitude and practice do you see?
 - b. What differences in attitude and practice do you see?
 - c. Are Christians today as sincere and genuine as those in the first century? Defend your answer.